

# NEWS RELEASE

## Idaho Department of Water Resources



Release 2005-13

### **Area Wind Farm Adds Third Generator**

Mountain Home Man Will Be Recognized for Efforts

For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho February 11, 2005

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Bob Lewandowski is a modern-day pioneer who, for more than 30 years, has dreamed of harnessing the wind near Mountain Home to generate electricity for his home and the utility company.

Next Tuesday morning, Feb. 15, the Idaho Energy Division will honor Lewandowski for his dedication in promoting and generating wind energy. The brief ceremony will conclude by releasing the brake on the newest turbine, allowing it to produce energy.

After watching his father's crops either dry up or seed blow away, Bob Lewandowski knew there must be a better way to use the resource instead of fighting it. He began experimenting with homemade wind measurement devices in about 1972 at his home in the same location of his present wind farm.

Four years ago, he began developing his wind project on his property. Idaho Power Company reached an agreement with Lewandowski to purchase the power before October 2002, paving the way for the first commercial wind farm in Idaho.

The first of three turbines began generating electricity in late October 2002, and second turbine went on line about 21 months later. The power feeds into the electric grid and is balanced by the electricity use of his nearby Mountain Home neighbors.

Each turbine is mounted on a 152-foot tower – taller than a 15-story building. With the addition of the third turbine, the wind farm will have the capability to generate 324 kilowatts of electricity. Considering variations in wind, the turbines provide an average annual output of about 80 kW. This is enough energy to supply the electricity needs of 66 average Idaho homes.

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Lewandowski's efforts have been observed by wind power enthusiasts both locally and nationally. It's apparent that Idaho, ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation for wind power capability, is ready to join other states in wind generation.

**What:** Lewandowski Wind Farm Dedication

**When:** 10:30 a.m., February, 15, 2005

**Where:** 2136 S. Simco Road, south of Interstate 84 east of Boise

***Attention broadcast media: A CD with footage of new Fossil Gulch Wind Park near Hagerman will be available at the dedication ceremony. The Fossil Gulch turbines are huge and quite impressive on video.***

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